



ANCIENT SKIES

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Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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IS MATHEMATICAL ABILITY EXTRATERRESTRIAL?

BY MAX H. FLINDT* with VELLA MUNN**

Very dramatic and extraordinary events in astrophysics have just taken place during the past month. Unfortunately, though, many people are still completely unaware of these events and their profound implication for all mankind. These recent discoveries bring much closer to reality man's age-old dream of contact with extraterrestrials.

On June 8, 1993, scientific experts at the University of California, Berkeley, announced that their SERENDIP III unit, located at the Arecibo radio-telescope in Puerto Rico, had, in 14 months, recorded 30 TRILLION radio signals from outer space. One hundred-sixty-four of those signals were considered interesting enough to warrant going back for a second look, and this work is going on right now! If just one of these 164 radio signals is found to carry intelligence, it could be the most important event for all mankind since the birth of Christ.

But that is not all that has just happened in the way of important events in astrophysics. The latest issue of The Planetary Report (official publication of the Planetary Society, the largest and fastest growing space organization in the world) says that astronomers are on the verge of announcing the discovery and confirmation of the very first planet circling another sun, outside of our solar system. When this announcement is made (it could be any day now), it will remove forever one of the main objec-

tions, of scientists and laymen alike, to the theory that there may be other intelligences like ourselves out there in the universe.

In the past, when I would mention to someone that man might be partly extraterrestrial, frequently the first reaction would be, "Well, I don't see how that could be true, because we have never ever discovered any other planet in space, outside of our own solar system!" And they were absolutely right! Until now. And now, any day, perhaps even before you read this, the official announcement will be made that, at last, we have discovered and confirmed the existence of another planet outside of our own solar system.

Of course, these two extraordinary recent events do not automatically prove that man is partly extraterrestrial. Far from it. But they do open the gate much wider down that unthinkable path - the path leading to the incredible concept that man may be partly extraterrestrial. While these recent events are stirring and thought-provoking in themselves, the main point of this paper is the first public disclosure of what seems to be proof that man may be partly extraterrestrial.

Although the theory that man may be partly extraterrestrial has been around for a long time, conclusive proof of this theory has been very difficult to find. However, in 1982 a line of reasoning was developed by the present author (at the suggestion of Erich von Daniken) that seems to provide - at last - conclusive proof that man is partly extraterrestrial.

The essence of this line of reasoning lies in the fact that, among all animals, only man possesses inherent mathematical ability. This fact combines with the fact that no ecological imperative is known here on Earth that would insist on man developing mathematical ability. This combination constitutes a major scientific mystery.

Where did man's inherent mathematical ability come from? Long ago, one of the finest minds in evolution - Alfred Russell Wallace - examined this mystery, and concluded that, "some force, or intelligent power, had guided the evolution of man." Was Wallace right - 130 years ago? Fortunately, modern space research and exploration provide an explanation for the mystery that Wallace could not explain. We now know where man's inherent mathematical ability may have come from. It may have come from outer space. And if man's mathematical ability came from outer space - and nowhere else - then we may, at last, have proof that man is partly from another planet in space.

Of course, if this by chance is true - that man is partly from another planet in space - then humanity has reason to be much more optimistic about the future than it appears at present.

If we can only make contact with our presumed outer-space ancestors, incredible benefits could

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possibly flow down to Earth, benefits in every science, technology, art and endeavor known to man. For surely, if they are out there, they are far more advanced than we are in all things.

But we get ahead of ourselves. Let us drop back to the main question: Is man's mathematical ability really a gift from the stars? We honestly and sincerely believe this is so, and here is the reason why it seems to be true. The discovery was made just as soon as we ventured out into space that man could not land on any planetary body in space (Earth, Moon, etc.) without top-drawer mathematical ability. Now, for some unknown reason, this situation has not been given any publicity. The general public is largely unaware that it would be impossible to pilot the space shuttle out to the moon, then return to Earth, and then land the shuttle on Earth, without, at the very least, a Master's Degree in higher mathematics. Mathematics is so important to the success of every mission that every shuttle carries on board five 60-pound computers.

When I first became aware of how important mathematics is to the success of each mission, I called NASA in Mountain View, California and asked the Information Officer, "How important is mathematics in the shuttle flights?" He replied, "It is so important that one of the first pilots selected for an early mission was selected primarily because he had been a mathematics instructor in the Air Force."

"Okay," you may say, "But if mathematics is so important to space flight, then why is it so important?" Good question. Here's the answer: Power. Or, more accurately, lack of power. Unfortunately, out in space we never have enough power to do everything we want to do. If we had unlimited power in space, when we approached Earth from a journey to the Moon or from some other planet, we would simply turn on the retro-rockets and brake our incredible speed, and then land. But we explore under conditions of extreme restraints upon the amount of fuel we can expend in such manner. Therefore, we must use other means of braking our speed upon approaching Earth from space. We "skip" upon contacting the Earth's atmosphere. Like a flat rock "skipping" across a lake, our spacecraft skips in and out of the air, slowing down a tiny bit each time it enters and exits the air envelope of Earth.

This process goes on and is repeated many times, until the ferocious speed of re-entry (300 miles per minute) is reduced to such a speed that the shuttle "skin" can endure without burning up entirely. Then, and only then, does the spacecraft shuttle dare to enter the air envelope of Earth and stay there, gradually slowing down (even though the skin of the spacecraft glows red again, as it did during the "skips").

"Okay," you may say. "But where does the mathematics come in?"

Here's where: The calculation of the ultra-precise angle of re-entry is one of the most exquisite pieces of higher mathematics known to modern science. Human lives depend on it. Would you care to calculate that infinitely small angle, knowing that your life depended on it? I wouldn't.

Be that as it may, let us proceed. Did I mention that human lives depend on this mathematical calculation? Absolutely. Here's why: If the angle of re-entry is too steep, by just the tiniest, infinitesimal fraction of a degree, the spacecraft can't exit out into space to cool down on its first "skip" and so it burns up, along with its entire crew. If, on the other hand, the mathematic calculation is not correct and the angle of re-entry is too shallow, not steep enough - by the most infinitesimal amount - the spacecraft on its first bounce will rocket out into space, never to return, so the crew again is lost.

How do we manage to calculate that angle so perfectly that we did not lose one crew, or spacecraft

in over 10 trips to and from the Moon? By using computers on Earth. The necessary parameters (essential data) relevant to each particular trip are radioed back to Earth by the crew hours before re-entry. The calculations are made and radioed back to the crew, who then make the necessary adjustments in the angle of approach, make new observations as to the angle of approach, and send corrected data back to Earth for verification.

But what happens if they have bad luck and their radio goes out? Ahah! There's the rub, as Shakespeare would say. If the radio goes on the fritz those incredibly precise calculations have to be made "by hand" by the space craft crew. Their lives depend on those calculations. The slightest miscalculation, and they die. Forever. And forever is a long, long time.

Now let us please shift gears. Let us go back to the evolutionary dogma. It is a basic tenet of evolution that nothing is ever developed in a species unless the ecology of that species insists upon the development of that particular attribute or ability. (For instance, take the sense of smell. Natural selection, as always, favors the human beings who can smell smoke in the middle of the night, awaken, alert the family, and dash out into the street, thus saving all their lives.) But scientists can find no ecological imperative on Earth that insists on the development of mathematics simply in order for the human species to survive. (Smell, yes! Mathematics, no!)

And, as we have just seen, outer space does insist on mathematics in order for our space pilots to land on Earth without burning up. And what is true of our own space pilots must also be true for any alien crew attempting to land on Earth from another planet in space. Spacefarers from another planet must have mathematics in order to land on Earth. so, if we have been visited (one authority claims we may have been visited 5000 times in the past) those visitors had to have mathematics!

So now we come to the conclusion of this paper. If we have been visited by intelligences from another planet in space (a 1990 Gallup Poll says 27% of Americans believe this is true), then mathematics as an unexplained inherent ability in most of us stands as proof that we are partly extraterrestrial.

There is much other evidence that we are partly from another planet in space. But that evidence is not within the scope of this paper. Those items are fully discussed elsewhere. Unfortunately, that is indirect evidence, and cannot really be considered as proof. But inherent mathematical ability in man can be considered as proof.

Why? Because of three things: First, it is the simplest explanation. Secondly, no better explanation for this phenomena has been found. Thirdly, it integrates so smoothly with the other major circumstantial evidence that man is partly extraterrestrial. Therefore, we claim that inherent mathematical ability in man is proof - the first proof that has ever been found - that man is partly from another planet in space.

If you disagree with this conclusion, I would deeply appreciate hearing from you. Please do me the favor of telling me where I am wrong. "The truth shall make you free," the old saying goes, and I, like you, am a seeker of the truth.

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EZEKIEL'S SPACESHIPS

BY WALTER JOERG LANGBEIN*

It all began with Chariots of the Gods?, Erich von Daniken's first book. Twenty-five years ago Erinnerungen an die Zukunft, (literally "Memories of the Future", but published under the English title of "Chariots of the Gods?") triggered world-wide interest among scientists and laymen alike in the question of whether Earth had been visited by extraterrestrials thousands of years ago.

Referring to the biblical Ezekiel, von Daniken wrote in Chariots: "The Old Testament gives some impressive descriptions in which God alone or his angels fly straight down from heaven making a tremendous noise and issuing clouds of smoke. One of the most original descriptions of such incidents comes to us from the prophet Ezekiel." von Daniken quoted the precise description of a vehicle which can be found in the Book of Ezekiel. Then von Daniken wrote: "In addition to his precise description of the vehicle, Ezekiel also noted the noise that the novel monstrosity made when it left the ground. He likens the din made by the wings and the wheels as a 'great rushing'. Surely this suggests that this is an eye-witness account."

The Ezekiel account in Chariots made millions of readers around the world stop to think, but one man in particular was intrigued by von Daniken's interpretation of the story. Josef Blumrich, then one of the space engineers at NASA and head of the department in which future space stations were planned on the drawing board and worked out in detail, was engaged in the construction of the last stage of Saturn V. He participated in the design of Skylab and the Space Shuttle. In 1972 Mr. Blumrich was awarded the NASA Exceptional Service Medal for his work on Saturn and Apollo, an honor received by very few NASA engineers. This NASA expert found von Daniken's ideas about Ezekiel thought-provoking, or to put it more directly - annoying.

How did a space expert come to study the biblical text of Ezekiel? "As a protest!" Blumrich said. "I read Chariots of the Gods? with the superior attitude of a man who knew in advance that it was all rubbish. From the wealth of material supplied by von Daniken, I found, when I came to the description of the technical characteristics of Ezekiel's visions, a territory in which I could join in the conversation, so to speak, as I have spent most of my life in the construction and planning of aircraft and rockets. So I got out a bible to read the complete text, feeling sure that I would refute and annihilate Daniken in a few minutes. Daniken could not, he simply ought not, be right!"

Thus Josef Blumrich's intensive analysis of the biblical text of Ezekiel began. But the skeptical

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Blumrich became the convinced Blumrich. In 1973, his book "Da tat sich der Himmel auf" (The Space-ships of Ezekiel) was published. Blumrich's work became one of the main corner stones in the presentation of evidence concerning the question: "Were the Gods Astronauts?"

The conversion of this sympathetic Austrian from a Saulus to a Paulus distinguishes him as a true scientist. It is a sign of honest science to admit that intensive research has lead to results originally considered to be impossible. The true scientist longs for knowledge, not simply confirmation of preconceived prejudices. It may not be easy to confess: "I have been wrong." But the ability to do so marks the great scientist. Without doubt Josef Blumrich is a truly great scientist and I am convinced that all science would have developed much quicker had there been more of the Blumrich kind.

Josef Blumrich's interpretation of the Ezekiel text makes a closer look at biblical texts necessary. Such authors as von Daniken often are accused of choosing their texts arbitrarily and of falsifying the original intention of the Holy Scriptures. Is it permissible to interpret "Holy texts" in a technical way? I think yes, it is. And more so, it is absolutely imperative to do so. Scientific analyses of biblical texts makes it necessary to use every kind of available knowledge, and technical knowledge is part of today's science.

The books of the Holy Bible consist, roughly speaking, of those considered to be canonized and those which do not belong to the canon. Canonized scriptures are those which we find in the Bible, for example, the five books of Moses, the Prophets, the Psalms, etc. In the New Testament there are the four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the Apocalypse, all belonging to the canon. Other books were not considered to belong to the canon, such as the Book of Enoch, the books of Esra and the Ascension of Moses. In the first Christian councils it was decided which texts were to be included into the Bible and which were not. What was beyond the horizon of the clergy of those days, and it was not a broad horizon, was not canonized. In reality, however, it is not only the canonized texts which can be considered "holy", but also those not canonized are by no means less "holy". According to the ancient Jewish tradition the 500 BC prophet Esra collected 120 writers who had to assemble the Old Testament and the 39 books of the Old Testament are the result of a protracted process.

In Ancient Israel the texts of the Old Testament were interpreted by scholars and construed for the students. Two texts were considered to be especially difficult to understand: The Creation and the description of the flying vehicle by Ezekiel. For many centuries Ezekiel's text was considered to be a hot and ticklish problem. Rabbi Chananiah studied the text intensively in the first century after Christ. It seems likely that we owe to him the fact that Ezekiel's text can still be found in the Bible.

Theologians of our day still are concerned with Ezekiel's description and some have concluded that parts of his book were not written by Ezekiel, but by an editor. Others, however, conclude that the book of Ezekiel bears the marks of a careful plan and arrangement and comes to us direct from the prophet himself. He speaks throughout in the first person.

One argument against a technical interpretation of Ezekiel is that it is simply a vision, or a dream and not a real experience. This argument cannot be supported when one reads the Ezekiel text in the original language. Ezekiel himself must have been aware of the improbability of his experiences and stresses the reality of the described experiences emphatically. All important verbs are doubled. For example: "and then a happening happened" (Ez.1,3), and "I saw and saw a seeing" (Ez.1,4).

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Thanks to my studies of theology at several universities in Germany, I know that a word-by-word translation of Ezekiel's text shows that it is a true factual report and not a dream or vision.

Very real, too, are the descriptions of Ezekiel's flying machine found in the texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls. But it remains unclear whether or not some of the Ezekiel texts of the Scrolls are still kept secret.

Ezekiel was deported by King Nebuchadnezzar in the year 597 BC to Babylon, along with many other Jews. He lived in the village of Tel-Abib on the River of Chebar in Chaldea. Ezekiel was a priest, married and belonged to a social strata of influence. The fact that he was deported proves his importance, because the most influential part of the population was deported in that year. Ezekiel's book begins in the year 593 or 592 BC, the prophet then being about 30 years old. His recordings extend over a period of about twenty years. We do not know when he died or where he was buried, although a grave located near Al-Kifl, a settlement about 25 miles south of Babylon is represented as being his last resting place, but this is unproven folklore.

Ezekiel offers an enormous amount of facts concerning the first spaceship he encountered, which facts have been assembled as pieces of a puzzle. Hence, the spaceship described by Ezekiel is a space-shuttle type of craft, commuting between the mother-ship in orbit and Earth, being used for expeditions above the surface of Earth as well.

Ezekiel does impressively describe the roaring of the engine. While the central engine was in operation, four helicopter-like units were rotated upwards and after switchoff of the main rocket engine, they were taken down again. Ezekiel describes the helicopter units as "living beings". The short bursts of the control rockets are construed by him as "lightning flickering in the space that separates the living beings." Wheels, which were housed in the lower portion of the helicopter units during flight, were deployed shortly before landing. Ezekiel describes these as "a wheel within a wheel."

Ezekiel reports that he was invited on board the spaceship for several flights. He is highly irritated during his first flight, obviously suffering from some sort of shock. It takes him a week to recover and become "normal" again. Further flights are described by him as "wonderful experiences."

Unfortunately no reports by Ezekiel describing the interior of the spaceship have been handed down to us. We do not know if relevant portions of Ezekiel's text existed and were lost or destroyed.

Ezekiel's description of the exterior appearance is very clear. He says that its central body resembles a humming top. The main reason for such a shape is the aerodynamic requirements for reducing the speed of the spaceship on its flight to Earth, which begins with a speed of 21,000 miles per hour. Blumrich writes:

"Both the layout of the spacecraft as well as the analyses provide a sure indication that it was designed as a shuttle between a mothership and the surface of Earth. The mothership is in orbit around the Earth and is both the starting point and the destination of all the spaceship's flights. The main features of the spaceship reveal to us a vehicle of surprisingly sophisticated design. We recognize the aerodynamic and weight advantages inherent in the striking shape of the main body and how well suited it is for the addition of helicopters. The helicopters themselves are distinguished by such features as folding wings, ability to change their position and astute layout for the control rockets. All these properties fit together without any contradiction or unsolved questions; they are unmistakable indications of very able and sophisticated planning and design."

Almost 20 years pass between Ezekiel's third and fourth encounter with the spaceship, when he is again taken on board and this time he is taken to a "temple". When we look up the passage in today's Bible translations, there seems to be no doubt that Ezekiel was taken to the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. However, I have read Ezekiel's text in the original Hebrew during my studies of theology and I translated it word for word. To my great astonishment, I found out that Ezekiel did not recognize the place where he was taken. Proceeding from the original text, it is clear that wherever Ezekiel was taken, it certainly was not Jerusalem. He knew Jerusalem like the back of his hand and without doubt he would have used the familiar geographic names, but such are missing in the original text and were later added by translators!

Where was Ezekiel taken to?

Ezekiel saw a high mountain unfamiliar to him. He saw "something like a big city", but it was not Jerusalem, otherwise he would have used its name. Ezekiel describes a temple composed of three separate terraces, with its main gate oriented to the East. He noted that the outer court had three gates, to the North, South and East, and at the south side he saw a spring which supplied a river leading towards the sea. Around the river, which was filled with fish, there was life in abundance with extremely fertile land, green trees and much fruit. All of these facts describe a place in the Andes Mountains in northern Peru called Chavin de Huantar! And none of these facts are descriptive of Ancient Israel or Jerusalem.

Thus Ezekiel was probably flown to a remote site in South America where he visited a temple unknown to him. He took hundreds of precise measurements of the temple. These measurements were recently used by the German engineer Hans-Herbert Beier to make a model of the "temple" and concluded that it was not a place of pious devotion and meditation, but rather was a purely technical construction to accommodate the housing of the spaceship for maintenance. It was here that the nuclear impulse of the spaceship was repaired, as described by the prophet. He emphatically mentions the massive protective clothing worn by the workers and the procedures they performed in replacing the fuel elements of the craft. Mr. Beier published a book on his findings entitled Kronzeuge Ezechiel in 1985. Ezekiel's spaceships have without doubt left Earth thousands of years ago, disappearing into endless space. However, the maintenance facility which Ezekiel described, or the remnants thereof, are still on Earth. Is it the "temple" at Chavin de Huantar? Or is it somewhere else? One of the most important tasks for us is to find it.

October 9-10, 1993. The UFO Experience Conference, Holiday Inn, North Haven, Connecticut. Info: John W. White, 60 Pound Ridge Rd., Cheshire, CT 06410.

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BOOKS:

When Time Began, by Zecharia Sitchin, published by Avon Books, New York.

Forbidden Archeology - The Hidden History of the Human Race, by Michael A. Cremo and Richard L. Thompson, published by Govardhan Hill Publishing, P.O. Box 52, Badger, CA 93603.

Alien Identities - Ancient Insights into Modern UFO Phenomena, by Richard L. Thompson, also from Govardhan Hill Publishing.